The CHRISTMAS Newspaper

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(issued only once a year) (excuse us for our bad writing...)

PIGEONS

Two pigeons came to eat with our pigeons and stayed a couple of days. They are brown, a female and a baby. Just this morning another one arrived. He is black with a bit of blue and green. He flies away at every move I make; we hope that they are going to stay here.

INGRID

KALIURANG – RETREAT

Doctor Fletcher has gone to Kaliurang for a retreat of professors. We hope that he will enjoy it and that he will come back safely to go to the island of Bali.

EVE

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CHRISTMAS EVE AND THE DAY OF THE KINGS

Mrs. Fletcher has decided that the day of the Kings will replace Christmas Eve. We all like this change because on that night we will have more time for songs.

EVE

MY CAT AND HIS FRIEND

My cat is always hungry; his friend, the white cat is also. Sometimes they are gone, but I like to pet them and they purr.

SONYA

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MANGAS

The manga season has passed. How sad… They were so juicy and sweet… And now they are "habis" [gone] (at least in our garden)

INGRID

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COLDS

Ingrid and Veronica have both a nasty cold. We wish them a quick recovery and an empty nose…

EVE

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BETCHAK TRIP

When Madeleine and I were going back home from our violin lesson we looked for a "betchak". We found one and he said he wanted five rupias if he drove us to our house. At a crossroad he took the wrong road. We stopped him and told him again our address. He was mad and then he asked for fifteen rupias if he got us there. We hadn't enough money so we gave him the five rupias that he wanted first, and had to make the rest of the way on foot.

INGRID

BAD BOYS

One of the Thompson's boys: Geoffrey, was bothered by some bad boys. When he was getting into his car one of them hit him on the head. Geoffrey took a boxing position and all the bad boys laughed at him. At last the car started and saved Geoffrey from those boys. They had put stones in front of the wheels to stop the car from moving and thus they caused further trouble (the brats).

INGRID

THE THREE KINGS

The three kings (David, Martin, Geoffrey) have passed by our house to give us something that rather looked like a holder of candles or like a ball of clay with a hole dug in it. They brought us also a sweet-smelling bag of cloves all stuck together with a lot of paste. Those were really very useful presents. Now mother is perfuming her "lamari" [closet] with the cloves.

EVE

THE THOMSON'S HOUSE

The Thompson's house is pretty. Pictures, stars and cards decorate the rooms. They have on the shelf of the dining room two small Christmas trees.

SONYA

THE CHRISTMAS OF THE CAT

Mrs. Fletcher bought a bag of little dried fish for the cat, while we will be gone. It will be his Christmas present.

EVE

THE PARROT

The cage of the parrot is very dirty. We will not have time to clean it, before we leave. But it is still fun to look at the beautiful colors of his feathers.

SONYA

THE FAT MAN…

Madeleine and I were going to Abigail's house to give her a Christmas card. We were walking and then came a big blue car; the driver was a fat man with a jolly face and he honked several times just like a friend. He laughed loudly, a juicy laugh. Then when we came back the same blue car with the same fat man appeared, and the man honked his horn again and laughed again… What a funny man.

EVE

FUNNY DAVID

When Mrs. Fletcher and I went to give the Thompsons a present, Geoffrey and Martin were working. But David was covered with flour because he was helping his mother to cook.

INGRID

PAK TAN'S VISIT

Pak Tan came here with his hungry (this means: gluttonous) daughter. They gave us a Christmas card with a pink rose on it. We enjoy it very much. SONYA

NAUGHTY BOYS

The boys are getting more and more bad. Today when Ingrid, Mother, and I were gone, they threw stones at the pigeons. A stone hit a bird and killed it. How sad.

SONYA

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THE KITTENS

Abigail's cat has has three cute kittens, two black ones and a yellow one. They were born on Monday the 19th, at 3 o'clock in the morning. Unhappily, one of them died Wednesday.

MADELEINE

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ONE AFTERNOON…

One afternoon Abigail, Madeleine, and I (Eve) were making Christmas decorations outside, in the yard. Then suddenly a man popped his head from behind and began to critic our drawings; he showed us proudly one of his pictures that represented a ridiculous Balinese woman. Seeing that we weren't admiring enough his art he mumbled that he would get another one. Quickly we rushed in the house with the chairs and all the other things so that when he came back again he was very surprised and angry.

EVE

MOURNING NEWS

The Thompson boys are sad that we are going to the island of Bali without them. They are going to feel lonely so we will try to come back soon. Mrs. Fletcher is going to give them a game of scrabble. She put candles, gum in the box to make them happy.

SONYA

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ABIGAIL'S CHRISTMAS

One day, Madeleine and I were going to Abigail's house to ask her questions and we were anxious to see her Christmas tree. But she didn't think of it. It's too bad.

EVE

WHAT A WASTE

Just to ask Abigail if she could come to our house Wednesday, and to give her our Christmas cards, Eve and I spent 6 rupias in bargaining a « betchak » for a ride « pulang-pergi » [round trip].

MADELEINE

HONK-HONK-HONK

Just as Eve and I were going to Abigail's house, a friendly fat man swerved dangerously close to us in his blue car and « honked » loudly to scare us. He laughed triumphantly and waved his hand as we stared at him in surprise. And as we were coming back from Abigail's on the same afternoon, in a « betchak », the same man in his blue car nearly upset the « betchak » driver as he drew from his horn several more short blasts.

MADELEINE